

AFTER VICTORY

VICTORY has swept across Europe, and already the glow of final triumph lights the Pacific arena. War machines which attempted the conquest of the free peoples have crumbled, dictators who boasted their power are no more, and in the calendar of freedom this triumphant month of May stands for all time framed in shining gold.

But Victory has been bought at a great price. No rejoicing can obliterate the fact that the world once more has seen the sons of men make the supreme sacrifice for its freedom. We have again seen in our time "the last dread outpouring of life" for a great cause:

*With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea,
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.*

Their sacrifice is our prime remembrance in these days of victory, the offering which made possible our hopes of a new day. Our fortune is indeed founded on the lives of brave men and women who in the nobility and generosity of youth gave their all that those coming after might lift their heads more confidently and enter the glories of a more spacious life.

Victory brings new obligations. We are already committed to the reconstruction of European life, that life which withered and almost perished under Nazi barbarism. Europe has been liberated. We now have to assist her in the regeneration of her civilisation. A Europe restored and recivilised as quickly as possible is the primary step towards a better world.

It is reported that in Nuremberg the statue of Albrecht Dürer still stands. All round it is the devastation of bombing, but the figure of Germany's great artist has survived the destruction. Is not that a symbol of resurrection in the city which was the shrine of the Nazi gospel? Florence came through the Italian struggle with her immortal treasures largely unscathed. Venice is again secure in all

her timeless grace to inspire new generations. Paris is still the lively city of light and intellect, and London stands proudly, marked with scars but enriched with undying memories of the fight which makes the world salute her—the capital city of freedom. Those facts are rightly a cause for hope in the future that although

*Tears fell, and hopes, and men,
And crowns, and cities, and blood, on a trampled plain,
Honour and hope and God rose up again.*

MEN went into this struggle not merely to defeat Nazism but to win a new life for their families and themselves in Britain. We have indeed been fighting on the plains of northern Germany for a new Britain, and the men who conquered will not forgo the prize they battled for. They have dreamed of a home and a garden, a pleasant room and music, the laughter of children and the companionship of friends. These things have been part of the dream picture of the men in the tanks and the armoured cars, in the supply columns and the communication lines. It is one of our sacred duties in these days of victory to help those dreams come true.

A calm determination must be ours—that victory bought at such a price shall be treasured and used, and in no way squandered. These Victory days are hours of resolution that a new Britain shall rise—purified in the fires of war, cleansed of selfishness, and equipped to serve her own people and the world.

THESE victory days rightly bring relief, and they rightly bring rejoicing. But the first obligation they bring is the one of thanksgiving to Almighty God. We are at the end of another struggle in which righteousness has gained the Victory. It is the eternal righteousness laid up by God for all men to enjoy. That is the truth and the love worth fighting for and worth passing on to future generations.

Our first essential duty is the high and humble one of thanksgiving with a renewed recognition of our dependence on God—the Giver of Victory!

TREASURES GO HOME

WASHINGTON has just received back America's most valuable treasures from the bomb-proof vaults at Fort Knox, where they were sent for safety in 1941. Buried deep in the vaults which hold America's stock of gold, the treasures included: the Declaration of Independence; the Constitution of the United States; the Articles of Confederation; Lincoln's second inaugural address (original autographed copy); Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (first and second autographed drafts); and the Saint Blasius-Saint Pau copy of the Gutenberg Bible.

Accompanying these historic documents and treasures of America was one famous British treasure—the Lincoln Cathedral copy of Magna Carta. This had been exhibited at the New York World's Fair, and America agreed to keep it in safety during the war.

The Librarian of Congress is responsible for the precious documents of America's history. He took minute care in their transfer to Fort Knox on the night of December 26, 1941.

The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution

of the US were taken down from the Library, wrapped in special manila paper, placed in a millboard container, then a preheated bronze container, and sealed with padlocks. The container was then packed in rock wool in a heavy metal-bound box. At last it was ready for its mid-night ride.

The Magna Carta, the Bible, Lincoln's manuscripts, and the Articles of Confederation were treated with equal care, wrapped and packed in oak cases lined with copper, plus a copper lid soldered in place.

On the evening of the 26th an armed and escorted truck took them to the Union Station. They were put in their heavily-guarded sleeping compartment. The train pulled out at 6.30.

The next morning in Louisville, Kentucky, a troop convoy from Fort Knox met the train and escorted the cases to their war hide-out. The priceless treasures were as safe as it was possible to make them.

Now they are back again in the second floor of the Library building in Washington, to be seen by the thousands who go through the building each year.

The Rabbits and the Oysters

SOME interesting excavations have been made at Corfe Castle in Dorset, not by archaeologists but by rabbits.

From the dry moat called King John's Ditch, finished in 1218, they have been scratching out a large assortment of metal objects, pottery, and kitchen and workshop waste. There were shells of cockle, limpet, scallop, whelk, and winkle, but by far the most plentiful were those of the oyster, from Poole or Purbeck. At Corfe Castle are remains of two dumps of these shells, and it is thought that here, as elsewhere, they were used to bed in with the mortar between the stone courses of walls and towers. Some were noticed in the 500-years-old tower of Corfe church when it was repointed some years ago.

A bit of black pottery suggests a settlement here in Roman times, but to prove such things as this archaeologists must one day dig out the ditch and open the filled-up walls and rubbish pits.

EVERY
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CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



Victory Smiles

These young Dutch girls seldom smiled during the five years of Nazi occupation. Now joyously they throw flowers on the jeep of one of their British liberators, and go for a Victory ride round their town.

KING'S ENGLISH

A HAUGHTY lady of our acquaintance was heard to say she would not send her little son to the "village" school as he "would pick up a common accent there."

So-called common accents are usually the survival of an old dialect which in its heyday was a distinct language with its own rigidly-observed rules of grammar and pronunciation. For after all, the King's English we use is simply the development of an old English East Midlands dialect which has survived at the expense of other dialects. If the Scottish Lowlands had become the predominant part of Britain we should now be speaking and writing the language in which Burns wrote his best poems.

On the other hand a "common accent" is often mere slipshod speech. A good example of this was provided recently by a plumber at work in a bathroom. To his boy assistant he said, "Hand me the punch out of that there tin." The boy searched and then replied, "Tin tin tin." "Well, if tin tin tin, tin tin tin; look in t'bag," replied his master impatiently.

Sometimes, however this unorthodox speech can be quite expressive, as in the famous case of the quartermaster-sergeant in the last war superintending the issue of new boots to recruits. This worthy directed his bewildered customers: "Them wot 'as boots as don't fit 'em and don't want 'em 'and 'em over to them wot 'asn't as does."

For Blind Engineers

A RANGE of precision instruments of easy adjustment and extreme accuracy has been designed by the National Institute for the Blind for the use of sightless engineers in post-war industry.

During the war thousands of blind operatives have worked in munition factories where mass production has allowed the use of fixed gauges. These gauges are

uneconomic in many of the short-run jobs of peacetime, so adjustable apparatus is needed if the blind are to continue to be highly efficient.

By means of the new instruments an engineer who loses his sight will still be able to follow his craft. The micrometer in the series is accurate to a 4000th part of an inch.

MR CHURCHILL LOOKS BACK—AND AHEAD

Himself a well-balanced historian as well as a maker of history, Mr Churchill has broadcast the story of the five years during which he has been Prime Minister and added one more chapter, the most thrilling of all, to the records he hands down to posterity. His speech was also a summons to every one of us to take our full part in shaping a better world.

In his masterly summary of the perils that assailed this nation in its darkest hour, and of the magnificent efforts by which imminent defeat was turned into triumphant victory, Mr Churchill, as ever, gave full praise to all who had endured the worst without flinching, and had with unwavering faith in their Cause given all their strength to build up victory.

He spoke of the unswerving co-operation of the British Commonwealth and Empire which now "stands more united and more effectively powerful than at any time in its long romantic history."

With them in the summer of 1940, after Mussolini, thinking that we were at our last gasp, had stabbed us in the back, we were absolutely alone. It was then that our "fighter aircraft broke the teeth of the German air fleet at odds of seven or eight to one in the Battle of Britain."

Threat by Air and Sea

The blitz that followed on London and other centres in England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland was borne without a word of complaint. But the hostile aircraft, by directing against our convoys the U-boats which bespattered the Atlantic, threatened our very means of carrying on.

Our only lifeline—the north-western approaches—was kept open by the devotion of our merchant seamen and our minesweepers; and the vast inventive, adaptive, all-embracing, and, in the end, all-controlling power of the Royal Navy.

Meanwhile, at home men and women were working on munitions till they dropped senseless with fatigue. Nearly a million men, working all day, had been formed into the Home Guard armed with rifles, armed also with the spirit to conquer or die.

Still all alone in 1941, we sacrificed our winter conquests in North Africa to stand by Greece. "We did this for honour."

Then Hitler's treachery in attacking Russia brought in our first Ally, to be followed later by America when Japan struck her felon blow.

Tributes to Our Allies

Never since, declared Mr Churchill, had he had the slightest doubt or fear but that we should be saved, and that we had only to do our duty to win.

The Prime Minister paid full tribute to the British Forces, their leaders in the Field and his Chiefs of Staff; to the mighty achievements of the Russian people, always holding many more German troops on their front than we could do; and finally to our American Allies fighting side by side with us with a unity, comradeship, and brotherhood never before displayed by the forces of two nations.

But by far the most important part of his speech concerned the

future. Here are some of its concluding sentences:

"I wish I could tell you to-night that all our toils and troubles were over.

"On the contrary, I must warn you, as I did when I began this five years' task, that there is still a lot to do, and that you must be prepared for further efforts of mind and body and further sacrifices to great causes if you are not to fall back into the rut of inertia, the confusion of aim, and the craven fear of being great.

"On the Continent of Europe we have yet to make sure that the simple and honourable purposes for which we entered the war are not brushed aside or overlooked in the months following our success, and that the words Freedom, Democracy, and Liberation are not distorted from their true meaning as we have understood them.

"We seek nothing for ourselves. But we must make sure that those causes which we fought for find recognition at the peace table in facts as well as words, and above all we must labour that the World Organisation which the United Nations are creating at San Francisco does not become an idle name; does not become a shield for the strong, a mockery for the weak.

The Japanese Menace

"It is the victors who must search their hearts in their glowing hours and be worthy by their nobility of the immense forces that they wield.

"Beyond all lurks Japan, harassed and failing, but still a people of a hundred millions for whose warriors death has few terrors. We have received horrible injuries from them ourselves, and we are bound by the ties of honour and fraternal loyalty to the United States to fight this great war at the other end of the world at their side without flagging or failing.

"We must remember that Australia, New Zealand, and Canada are all directly menaced by this evil Power. They came to our aid in our dark times, and we must not leave unfinished any task which concerns their safety.

"I told you hard things at the beginning of these last five years; you did not shrink, and I should be unworthy of your confidence and generosity if I did not still cry: *Forward, unflinching, unswerving, indomitable, till the whole task is done, and the whole world is safe and clean.*"

Sure Foundations For World Peace

WHILE victory was being celebrated in Europe the delegates to the United Nations Conference at San Francisco were shaping the charter of the new World Organisation.

To this end the delegates were assigned to four main directive commissions, under which twelve committees prepare allotted parts of the charter and decide on amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals.

These four commissions are severally responsible for (1) the purposes and principles of the Organisation; (2) the powers of the Assembly; (3) the powers of the Security Council; and (4) the International Court.

At the full sessions with which the conference opened there was agreement on the main principles of the work to be done, though the speakers for the individual nations pointed out what alterations they desired in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals.

A Noble Statement

The views of General Smuts have carried great weight at San Francisco, for he is the only leading statesman there who was also a member of the Versailles Conference in 1919. To General Smuts, indeed, was given the task of drafting the British Commonwealth's proposed preamble for the new charter, which reads:

"The high contracting parties, determined to prevent a recurrence of the fratricidal strife which twice in our generation has brought untold sorrow and loss upon mankind,

"To re-establish faith in the fundamental human rights, in the sanctity and ultimate value of human personality, in the equal rights of men, women, and of nations large and small, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in the larger freedom, and for these ends to practise tolerance and to live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, in order that nations may work together to maintain international peace and security.

"By the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods to ensure that armed force shall not be used save in the common interest, by the provision of means by which all disputes that threaten the maintenance of international peace and security shall be settled, by the establishment of conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations of international law and treaties and fundamental human rights and freedoms can be maintained, by the employment of international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

"Agree to this charter of the United Nations."

VICTORY SALVO

OUR Russian Allies have fired many salvos of guns in Moscow to celebrate their magnificent victories over the enemy, but we in Britain have not during the war observed this old custom of firing guns in unison to mark some great event.

The first celebration salvo to be fired by the British Army in this war was when recently 24 guns of the 60th City of London Heavy A.A. Regiment fired a

salute at Field-Marshal Montgomery's headquarters in honour of the surrender of the Germans to the British 21st Army Group.

In order that the artillery officers might get the timing of the salvo right, the War Office in London dialled TIM, the London G.P.O.'s automatic telephone voice that tells the time, and this was relayed to Monty's H.Q. so that the officers there could set their watches.

LITTLE NEWS REELS

THE Japanese were enraged at Germany's surrender, and Tokyo radio declared that Japan's Ally had "stabbed her in the back."

All London's parishes will be invited to contribute to paying for a portrait of Dr Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, as a token of their appreciation of his guidance when Bishop of London.

Civilian travel between Britain and the U.S. is now possible again, subject only to limitation of space in ships and planes.

Field-Marshal Montgomery had his first meeting with the famous Russian Marshal Rokossovsky at Wismar in Germany. They had lunch together and toasted the Allied Armies.

A block of four Canadian air mail stamps of 1928 has been sold for £72 10s in London.

A film is to be made in America of the life of the great Russian composer, Tchaikovsky.

THE Russian Easter was celebrated by millions of Russians, and a huge congregation was present at the Moscow service held by Patriarch Alexei.

Victory News Reel

THE first U-boat to come to Britain after the capitulation was U 249, which surrendered to the Royal Navy in Weymouth Bay.

Channel Islanders cried, laughed, cheered, and sang God Save the King when 30 British artillerymen arrived at Guernsey on May 9 to take the surrender of the 10,000 Germans in the Islands—the only part of our Homeland occupied by the enemy.

It was estimated that on the evening of VE Day 100,000 folk had gathered outside Buckingham Palace. The King and Queen and the Princesses appeared on the balcony five times within seven hours.

People picnicked under the lions in Trafalgar Square on VE Day. In the evening R.A.F. bombers flew over the city flashing their lights on and off and firing coloured rockets in salute to the rejoicing multitude below.

All day long on May 8 there was a pilgrimage to the Unknown Warrior's tomb in Westminster Abbey, and many people stayed to join in thanksgiving hymns.

At Liverpool 20,000 people sang Land of Hope and Glory outside the Town Hall while the sirens of decorated ships hooted on the Mersey.

THE sirens of ships on the Clyde were heard for miles around on VE Day. Searchlights from ships lit up the water while in the streets of Glasgow enormous crowds danced to the music of pipes.

Youth News Reel

THE Cornwell Scout Badge has been awarded posthumously to Scout Peter Watson of the 1st Buxton Group. Peter, age 12, suffered from cancer, and during months spent in hospital his patience and courage were outstanding.

At their St George's Day parade the Salisbury and South Wilts Boy Scouts Association were presented with a medal of St George from the district of St Germain en Laye (Paris), as a token of regard from the French boys to their English friends with whom they are linked under the Boy Scout Association's Link-up Scheme.

Every night since the outbreak of war Croydon Boy Scouts have

ON leaving Moscow, Mrs Churchill was presented with a diamond ring by Mrs Molotov, who said, "I hope this ring will continue to gleam as a bright symbol of Anglo-Soviet friendship."

The proposal to increase school summer holidays from five to seven weeks would be regarded by average parents "with horror and concern," said the Revd P.C. Lee, a member of the Southend Education Committee.

When Paratrooper S. Sutton was freed by the Americans in Germany, his first meal consisted of nine eggs and seven rashers of bacon.

The Government has ordered 50,000 aluminium houses.

After serving continuously for 53 years in the Army, Captain Shimians, aged 77, has received the Meritorious Service Medal.

It is estimated that the cost of bomb damage to this country will be £1000,000,000.

From the outbreak of war 70 million tons of cargo passed through Liverpool docks.

The bells of the main churches in Nottingham had been re-hung just in time to ring victory peals on May 8.

Folkestone's air raid sirens sounded the last "all clear" after Mr Churchill's speech on the afternoon of VE Day. These sirens had sounded 4165 air-raid warnings during the war and 102 shell-fire warnings.

Before the final week of the war in Europe, the Allied Expeditionary Force had put five million enemy troops out of action. The A.E.F. was described by General Eisenhower as "A mighty engine of righteous destruction."

The remnants of the German surface fleet that surrendered at Copenhagen consisted of the two powerful cruisers, the Prinz Eugen and the Nürnberg, three destroyers, ten minesweepers, 13 flak-ships, 19 armed trawlers, and two armed merchant ships.

The British Army's triumphant progress through Germany was led by its newest and fastest tank, the Comet, equipped with an accurate-firing 77-mm gun.

THOUSANDS of men of the U.S. Eighth Air Force have been flown on tours to see the bomb damage on enemy targets.

The George Cross Island of Malta marked the Victory with a mighty display of flags and flowers and bands.

The King has commanded that a special decoration, the Burma Star, shall be struck in honour of the great deeds of S.E.A.C.

performed emergency duties at Mayday Hospital, Croydon. They have also given assistance at Croydon General Hospital.

The Boy Scouts of America have launched a World Friendship Fund which gives members of the Movement in the United States an opportunity of helping to re-establish Scouting where it has been suppressed.

The Boys Brigade is one of the signatories of the recent manifesto issued by the Conference of Missionary Societies, calling for full opportunity for peoples of every colour and the removal of the barriers which hinder the coming of the day when all men, whether black or white, will have equal opportunities.

A Stitch in Time

AN American bomber pilot, knowing that after three years of Japanese tyranny the people of Burma must be shabby and short of clothes, has been dropping, not bombs, but needles and cotton to enable them to make do and mend. Did he, we wonder, recall the story of Barrie's delightful play, The Admirable Crichton, and the plight that beset the aristocratic family on an island after the wreck of their pleasure yacht?

Lord Lothian, having neglected to recover a hairpin, the last left to the ladies of the party, is gently admonished by Crichton, the butler, who for the first time

reveals the qualities that are to make him the uncrowned king of the island. His master pooh-poohs the idea of a single hairpin being of use.

"From that hairpin, my lord," says the wise butler, "we could have made a needle; with that needle we could, out of skins, have made trousers, of which your lordship is in need; and indeed we are all in need of them—among all this undergrowth." Crichton founded his island fortunes with a single needle as the mainspring of his grand schemes; the bomber pilot, with a bigger population in mind, has been dropping packets wholesale.

A CLUB FOR MUSIC LOVERS

A CLUB is being formed in Liverpool in connection with the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. The idea is to gather together all those who love orchestral music. Talks will be given about the works to be performed at the Philharmonic concerts, and particular attention will be given to modern British music. At the first meeting Dr Malcolm Sargent talked about Gustav Holst's The Planets, a work which has been performed twice this season at the Philharmonic concerts.

Already something like 3000 inquiries have been received about membership of the club.

TRAGIC FIGURES

THERE were 126 fewer people killed on the roads in March this year than in March, 1944, but this improvement refers only to adults, the number of children killed remaining as high as ever. In March this year 115 child cyclists and child pedestrians were killed, which shows no decrease on the figures for March last year or March, 1943.

Altogether in March 396 people died, and 8722 were injured in road accidents.

NORTHERN DRAMA FESTIVAL

MAINTAINING that the North lacks a festival of drama of the same magnitude as those of Stratford and Malvern, ambitious plans to create such a festival at Chester have been proposed by the Ruth Lever (Theatres) Ltd, of that city. The Hon Ruth Lever, founder of the Chester Repertory Theatre, thinks Chester is ideally situated for such a centre, and the Chester Improvement Committee have approved the idea in principle. A new theatre would have to be built, and plans to run repertory for 36 weeks, six weeks of festival, and 10 weeks of opera and ballet as well as plays presented by visiting companies, have been proposed.

Family Allowances in Canada

WHILE the British Family Allowances Bill (under which mothers will receive five shillings a week for every child under 16 except the first) is on its way through Parliament, in Canada children are being registered for the first payments of family allowance which are to begin on July 1.

In the Dominion these payments will be about one pound a month to parents for every child under six, 28s a month for every child between 10 and 13, and 32s

a month for every child between 13 and 16.

Canada's Family Allowance Act, or "baby bonus" as it is popularly called, is designed, as ours in Britain is, to help people with small incomes to bring up families. It is estimated that about one-third of all Canadian families have incomes of less than £300 a year, and these will be the people who will benefit.

Family Allowance in Canada will cost the Dominion about 200 million dollars a year.

WHERE BRITAIN LEADS

OUR agricultural research scientists have had some of their best-known successes in the grafting of fruit trees. Some of the experts engaged in fruit-growing carry out their experiments at the research station at East Malling, Kent, and the root stocks they have produced there are considered the best in the world. The demand for these root stocks from all parts is greater than can be met.

Over 500,000 root stocks are being sent overseas. Fruit from these trees will be on our tables in a few years' time.

Parliament Gives Thanks

"I BEG, Sir, with your permission, to move—That this House do now attend at the Church of St Margaret, Westminster, to give humble and reverent thanks to Almighty God for our deliverance from the threat of German domination."

With these solemn words Winston Spencer Churchill gave the signal for the House of Commons to adjourn for prayer and thanksgiving on VE Day. The service was sincere, simple, and beautiful. Canon Don, who conducted it, read out, slowly and with reverence, the names of twenty-one Members of Parliament who had given their lives

for the cause of Freedom. The closing hymn was "O God, our help in ages past."

In pursuance of custom on such occasions, the House of Lords adjourned to Westminster Abbey for a service of thanksgiving. It was a noble procession of two hundred men, including the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The opening words of this service, which was conducted by the Dean of Westminster, were—"The Lord hath done great things which ought to be had in remembrance."

Thus, amid the tumult of national rejoicing, the governors and guardians of our dear land of liberty rendered themselves to God's temples to thank Him for victory in Europe.

THANKS ON STAMPS

SOME European countries which have been liberated by the Allied armies, have recently issued new sets of stamps as a symbol of gratitude.

On a stamp issued by Luxembourg is a design of Britannia with the words Thanks to Britannia; while another is devoted to the USA with Thanks to America inscribed on it.

The Soviet five-pointed star with the hammer and sickle is the feature of a new Polish stamp. Czechoslovakia will also circulate a liberation issue.

AN EMPTY-HEADED SOLDIER

HITLER, whose criminal career has come to an end, was frequently referred to as "Corporal Hitler," a rank which he was thought to have held during the war of 1914-18.

A correspondent has stated in The Times that he was told by a German officer under whom Hitler served in that war that Hitler was only a lance-corporal, a rank which is not that of a non-commissioned officer in the German Army. He was turned down for promotion "as altogether too empty-headed and irresponsible to be trusted with the job of an N.C.O."

It is as well that we should get our history right, even on a comparative detail like this.

CANADA'S FIRST GRAIN SHIPS

CANADA'S great wheat exporting industry is of long standing, for she has been exporting grain since the middle of the 18th century. As early as 1754 wooden sailing ships carried 80,000 bushels of wheat during the year from Canadian harbours. Most of it was sold in Newfoundland and the French West Indies.

Today Canada sends an average of 500 million bushels of wheat a year to countries overseas.

Seven-Year-Old Life Saver

VALENTINE THYNNE, aged seven, son of Lord and Lady Weymouth, is a plucky and resourceful lad to whom Mrs Sims, the housekeeper at his home at Warminster, owes her life. For he saved her from drowning in a lake near his home.

The two had taken out a punt on the lake, but before they had gone far Mrs Sims slipped and fell into the water. She sank twice before Valentine could grab her dress and place her hands on the edge of the punt. She was nearly unconscious and he was not strong enough to drag her into the boat.

But Valentine urged her to hang on hard and then, keeping a grip on her with one hand, he managed to paddle the punt with his other hand to the bank. He shouted for help, but no one heard him. Then he saw a length of mooring-chain in the end of the punt; he put this under Mrs Sims' armpits, tied the other end to a seat, and ran for help.

People soon came from the house and Mrs Sims was lifted from the water. Valentine's resourcefulness and prompt action had undoubtedly been the means of saving her life.



Happy Home Holiday-Makers

Holidays at home are still a necessity for many people this year and these cheery boys and girls show the kind of fun to be enjoyed without going far from home.

THE CENSOR'S WAR EFFORT

OUR censors have come in for a good deal of criticism in this war, particularly at the beginning, but they have steadfastly carried on with their job and have played a vital part in preventing valuable information from reaching the enemy.

Since the outbreak of the war censors at the Ministry of Information have read more than a thousand million words of news items before they were printed in the newspapers. This is equivalent to the reading of about 14,285 full-length novels, or of reading the Bible right through nearly 1300 times.

A PREFABRICATED COTTAGE

A NEW type of prefabricated cottage that will preserve the charm of the traditional English country cottage, harmonise with the surrounding scenery, and yet have inside it the latest amenities, has been produced; and a few have been erected.

The chief feature of this cottage, the Lamella, is a steeply-sloping roof with windows in it, and it is this that gives it its old-world appearance. The cottage can be put up in ten days and is designed to last 100 years. It is of two storeys with three bedrooms, a modern bathroom, and kitchen with up-to-date fittings and built-in dresser.

The building operation consists in first erecting the steel framework of the cottage on a concrete foundation. Then the walls and the long steep roof are put together and hoisted into position over the framework. After that the tasks of tiling the roof and putting in the plumbing can proceed at the same time.

Look & Listen Before You Cross the Road

A MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND

ON August 23, 1944, an American bomber was struck by lightning and crashed on the village school at Freckleton in Lancashire, killing, among other victims, 38 children between the ages of four and six.

Personnel of the American Air Service Command Depot on which the Liberator bomber was based have contributed £2000 towards a memorial playground for the children of Freckleton. They are negotiating for the purchase of land adjoining the rebuilt school on which to lay out the playground and park.

The King and His Prime Minister to the People



The end of the war against Germany on V E Day was marked by two historic speeches broadcast to all the British peoples. We give below brief extracts from that of the Prime Minister announcing the unconditional surrender of the enemy, and that of the King giving thanks to God for a great deliverance.

The Prime Minister

The German War is at an end. After years of intense preparation, Germany hurled herself on Poland at the beginning of September, 1939; and, in pursuance of our guarantee to Poland, and in agreement with the French Republic, Great Britain, the British Empire and Commonwealth of Nations, declared war upon this foul aggression. After gallant France had been struck down we, from this island and from our united Empire, maintained the struggle single-handed for a whole year until we were joined by the military might of Soviet Russia and later by the overwhelming power and resources of the United States of America.

Finally almost the whole world was combined against the evil-doers, who are now prostrate before us. Our gratitude to our splendid Allies goes forth from all our hearts in this island and throughout the British Empire.

We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad. Advance, Britannia. Long live the cause of freedom. God save the King.

SEASIDE RESORTS WANT HELP

THE holiday resorts round the east and south coasts of England are very worried about their immediate future. Many of them have suffered severely from enemy action, some of the shores are still threatened by mines, and for four years the normal livelihood of the residents has been denied to them.

Naturally, the people of England are longing for a holiday by the sea after so long a period of unremitting toil; and those responsible at the seaside resorts think that the Government's assistance to them, given or promised, is totally inadequate.

At a recent conference in London of the trading and other interests concerned, a resolution was passed urging the Government to give immediate and full attention to their pressing problem. The conference called for the settlement of accumu-

King George the Sixth

There is great comfort in the thought that the years of darkness and danger in which the children of our country have grown up are over and, please God, for ever. We shall have failed, and the blood of our dearest will have flowed in vain, if the victory which they died to win does not lead to a lasting peace, founded on justice and established in good will. To that, then, let us turn our thoughts on this day of just triumph and proud sorrow; and then take up our work again, resolved as a people to do nothing unworthy of those who died for us and to make the world such a world as they would have desired, for their children and for ours.

This is the task to which now honour binds us. In the hour of danger we humbly committed our cause into the Hand of God, and He has been our Strength and Shield. Let us thank Him for His mercies, and in this hour of Victory commit ourselves and our new task to the guidance of that same strong Hand.

lated debts, priority supply of materials for repair work, the removal of defence works, including mines, and the derequisitioning of hotels, boarding and apartment houses, preparatory schools, and other institutions.

The conference decided to ask the Minister of Reconstruction to receive a deputation, and to form a standing committee of representatives of Lowestoft, Eastbourne, Margate, Brighton, Southend-on-Sea, Hastings, Skegness, Clacton, Dover, Portsmouth, and Bridlington.

With so many pressing matters to be dealt with, the Government are hard put to it to meet everybody's needs. Yet the seaside resorts on our east and south coasts have a strong case for urgent action, if for no other reason than the desire of inland dwellers, at last, to a reasonably comfortable holiday by the sea.

THE FUTURE OF TRIESTE

IN the north-eastern corner of Italy, in the Gulf of Trieste at the head of the Adriatic Sea, stands the great seaport of Trieste, which was recently liberated from the Nazis by Marshal Tito's Yugoslav patriots and Field-Marshal Alexander's troops.

Before the First Great War Trieste was Austria's chief outlet to the oceans of the world, and it had belonged to that country since 1382. But its people were three-quarters Italian, and it had always been a centre of Italian patriotism. In consequence, after the overthrow of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918, Trieste was ceded to Italy which then had fought by the side of the Allies almost throughout the whole war.

Trieste is an ancient city, and its cathedral is one of the oldest churches in Europe. Its tower incorporates part of a Roman temple, and in its walls are stones bearing Roman inscriptions which belonged to early Christian churches also incorporated in the building. The old town clusters up the sides of a steep hill, crowned by a castle, which dominates the new town whose broad streets were laid out in regular parallelograms over the short plain between the hills and the sea.

In the early Middle Ages Venice, 70 miles away, was the bitter commercial rival of Trieste, but for many years now Trieste has eclipsed its old competitor.

The importance today of this city with its fine harbours, modern equipment, and population of about 250,000 is still due to its being an outlet for much of the trade of Central Europe. It is a valuable seaport standing not far from the boundary between two nations, the Italians and the Yugoslavs, and, therefore, it is inevitable that there should be some rivalry as to its future possession. However, we may hope that the future of Trieste will be settled in a spirit of international co-operation.

War Memorial to Children

As peace dawns over our war-shattered world many British parents carry in their hearts a tragic memory that can never fade in their time, that of their children who were killed in air raids on this country. Nothing could be more fitting than that a war memorial to our fallen children should take the form of the best-equipped children's ward in a hospital in Britain.

This is what St Thomas's Hospital, London, is aiming at providing with the £30,000 for which it is appealing to establish the Children's War Memorial Ward. In aid of the fund a gala performance of A Night in Venice will be given at the Cambridge Theatre on June 4.

No hospital could more appropriately be the home of a children's war memorial ward than much-blitzed St Thomas's, facing Parliament across the Thames.

Many parents will send liberal donations as thank-offerings that their own children were spared. Donations should be sent to the joint treasurers, St Thomas's Hospital, London, and clearly marked "Memorial Children's Ward."

EDITOR'S TABLE

Vision of Peace

FLOATING on air, a dream
Shimmers in golden light.
Mystical beauty, its theme,
Tuned to the Infinite.
Woven from Peace immortal,
that Love
Garners in Heaven's great store
above.

Shall we return to War
After a long release?
Light from a jewelled star
Radiates lasting Peace.
Haunting visions are ours today,
They give us Courage, with
strength to pray.

Frances Woodwright

Post Mark of Victory

THE Post Office, always to the fore both in peace and war, was not likely to forgo a share in the Victory celebrations; and it marked them in very happy fashion—post-marked them, in fact, by stamping our letters with a special design in which the V sign, ringing bells, and the dot, dot, dot, dash of the Morse V all blended most felicitously. Full marks to the Post Office for its Victory post-mark!

MISSING

"It is not new scientific weapons that count, but the spirit and determination of human hearts."

The speaker was Field-Marshal Kesselring and he was commenting, after he had been made a prisoner, on the V1 and V2 weapons.

The Field-Marshal is right. And we would add that, given a cause that is just, the spirit and determination of human hearts could not fail.

JUST AN IDEA

A great deal of talent is lost to the world for the want of a little courage.

CARRY ON

PASSING TIME

I HAVE never had a watch nor any other mode of keeping time in my possession, nor ever wish to learn how time goes. It is a sign I have had little to do, few avocations, few engagements. When I am in a town I can hear the clock; and when I am in the country I can listen to the silence. What I like best is to lie whole mornings on a sunny bank on Salisbury Plain, without any object before me, neither knowing nor caring how time passes, and thus "with light-winged toys of feathered Idleness" to melt down hours to moments.

William Hazlitt

DEDICATION

I vow to thee, my country—all earthly things above—
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love.

Arthur Cecil Spring-Rice

INDISPUTABLE

ONE of the greatest lies on which Hitler rose to power concerned the manner of Germany's defeat in 1918.

Hitler said that the German Army was not defeated by the Allies but was "stabbed in the back" by the cowardice and treachery of German civilians.

Future propagandists, if any, will not be able to utter a similar falsehood concerning Germany's collapse in 1945, for when the final act of surrender was made in Berlin at 00.16 hours on Wednesday, May 9, it was signed by Field-Marshal Keitel, Chief of the German High Command, and also by the commanders-in-chief of Ger-

Mutual Unc

IN the ancient Guildhall of Winchester, Major-General Manton Sprague Eddy, of the United States Army, was presented with the freedom of the city.

General Eddy was honoured for his services in promoting friendship and understanding between the people of the Winchester district and his soldiers, while the Americans were quartered there before D Day.

General Eddy, in reply, said: "The men you have seen here came from every State in the

Under the E

A MAN has built a bungalow with his own hands. Couldn't get bricks.

LORD Haw Haw could not be found in Hamburg. Was found out.

INHABITANTS want to know why Worthing front is still not open to the public. Say there is something behind it.

A MAN says he wants to see more small towns in Britain. Better buy a car.

PETER WANK



If you n the pea giving it

My Own D

My own dear country—thy remembrance comes
Like softly-flowing music on my heart;
With thy green sunny hills, and happy homes,
And cots rose-bowered, bosomed in dells apart;
The merry pealing of our village bells
Gush ever and anon upon mine ear;
And is there not a far-off sound that tells

The Second Arrow

IN my schooldays, when I had lost one shaft,
I shot his fellow of the self-same flight
The self-same way with more advised watch,
To find the other forth; and by adventuring both
I oft found both.

Shakespeare

SURRENDER

many's sea and air services. The Act of Surrender acknowledged Germany's total defeat by force of arms. It was signed before Marshal Zhukov, representing the Russian High Command, and Air Chief Marshal Tedder, representing General Eisenhower; and with Allied Generals signing as witnesses.

As stated in the instrument of surrender, "This act is drawn up in the English, Russian, and German languages. The English and the Russian are the only authentic texts."

Thus the facts of Germany's complete surrender are made plain to her people, no less than to the historians of the future.

Understanding

Union. You have seen and learned to know a true section of the manhood of my country. The close associations enjoyed in Winchester have done more toward mutual understanding between British and United States people than all the diplomats, conferences, and treaties could ever accomplish.

Understanding and respect, as between one nation and another, has its foundations most sure when they are based on personal experience.

Editor's Table

PUCK TO THE TOW THE Nazis expected to march along the road to glory. But they are on the beaten track.

A GARDENER says he goes out every evening to see how his potatoes are looking. With their eyes.

A MAN says he holds a post in the City. Why not stick it in the ground?

AT this time of the year looks will go to seed. **to others.** Or to pot.

Dear Country

Of many-voiced laughter shrill and clear?
Oh! were I now with thee—to sit and play
Under the hawthorn on the slope o' the hill,
As I was wont to do; or pluck all day
The cowslip and the flaunting daffodil,
Till shepherds whistled homeward, and the west
Folded the large sun in crimson breast!
Dean Alford

THE SHINING LIGHT

LAMPS do not talk but they shine. A lighthouse sounds no drum; it beats no gong—and yet far over the waters its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. So let your actions shine out your religion. Let the main sermon of your life be illustrated by all your conduct.
Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Motherhood's Due

WHEN the Family Allowances Bill was first before Parliament the C N urged that the allowances should be paid to mothers and not to fathers. This is already the law in Australia and New Zealand, where it has worked well.

We are happy to note that Parliament have now agreed, without a division, to an amendment that mothers shall be the recipients of the allowances.

The decision made is just and sensible. We are sure that nobody will cavil at it, least of all the fathers, who know better than anybody what the status of motherhood really means and involves.

Geography to the Fore

GEOGRAPHY is a subject which has leaped into the forefront during the war years, for we have had to be interested in it to keep abreast of affairs.

Places have come prominently into the news which were scarcely known before. The Ryukyu Islands, for instance, and Okinawa. Then again many a town in Europe has become prominent in the war news.

The fact is that geography is a vitally important subject, the more so as nations cease to be insular and the world becomes a unit. If we know but little of the places outside our own shores, we are, in effect, isolationists; and that we must all avoid, in the interests of world peace.

DISMANTLING DAY

TUESDAY, May 8, 1945, will go down to history as VE Day, but in homes out of number it will long be remembered as another D Day.

For it was the day which not only gave the assurance that the time was ripe but it also provided the opportunity for a great Dismantling Act—the taking to pieces of Morrison shelters and other wartime safety devices in Britain's homes.

LIFE AND I

LIFE! I know not what thou art,
But know that thou and I must part;
And when, or how, or where we meet
I own to me's a secret yet.
Life! We've been long together
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;
Tis hard to part when friends are dear,
Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;
Then steal away, give little warning,
Choose thine own time;
Say not Good Night, but in some brighter clime
Bid me Good Morning.
Mrs Barbauld

Behold the Stars!

WHEN I gazed into these stars, have they not looked down on me as if with pity from their serene spaces, like eyes glistening with heavenly tears over the little lot of man!
Thomas Carlyle

THE TRIUMPHANT HIGHLANDERS

THE famous 51st (Highland) Division being one of the Forces that have won great glory in the war, it seemed but fitting that events of an unusual character should attend their closing strokes in the Western Front campaign. Drama and comedy were both present.

The crack 15th Panzer Grenadiers, having been fighting the Highlanders from time to time from El Alamein on to the very end of the campaign, sought the right to surrender only to the Highlanders, hoping to enjoy certain privileges in consequence—the right to be kept together in a special area and the privilege of retaining their revolvers. This, they vainly thought, would be granted them by the force that they had so long sought to destroy.

The terms of the surrender made such privilege impossible, even had there been the least desire on the part of the British commanders to grant it. But that the plea should be made would be to the Highlanders in full accord with the notions of what is due to their reputation. No one more highly appreciates their brilliant record than the men of the 51st themselves.

So it was, too, in the previous world war. When Earl Haig was Sir Douglas Haig and Commander-in-Chief of our forces, they called themselves "Douglas Haig's Own," but in their speaking and singing of him he was generally "Duggie" to them all.

After the victorious conclusion of operations they entertained him at a dinner and sing-song, and had for chief item in the vocal entertainment their own song, of which two lines ran:

When Douglas Haig calls for a final decision,
He says, "Bring up the men of the Highland Division."

Whatever the truth of that, he never called on them in vain, nor have their successors failed, as the 15th Panzer Grenadiers have testified.

One Queue Gone

WHAT shall we do with our torches? Until a few weeks ago every household of size had its magazine of these little portable electric lights, and greatly was he honoured who, in times of scarcity, brought home a couple of new No. 8 batteries. People in London joined queues to obtain them from shops known to possess supplies, and the most dignified would submit to rebuffs from the shopkeeper which would normally be intolerable.

The arrival of No. 8 batteries seemed, to nervous customers, to convert their vendors into fiery dragons regarding their would-be customers as soulless knaves intent on getting more than one battery per man. Of course, both theories were illusory, and all was good fun if those concerned could but have realised it. But No. 8s certainly live as one of the wartime memories most closely associated with anxiety and apprehension concerning the chance of each man's getting what he considered his due.

The queues for No. 8s are no more. Who now wants the once so welcome little batteries?

The Road to Victory

FOR nearly 300 weeks the C N has been recording the story of the war, its disasters and its triumphs. Here we glance once more along the long, hard road to victory.

It was on Friday, September 1, 1939, that the Nazis invaded Poland and at last unleashed all the satanic might with which Hitler had so long threatened Europe. The mask was off—for ever! On the following Sunday morning the nation knew that Britain was at war; and nobody who heard Neville Chamberlain's sad, tired voice will ever forget his words: "It is the evil things that we shall be fighting against." We had yet to learn fully how evil those things were.

The Stampede of Events

Poland was quickly overrun, and there followed strange months in which armies of France and England, ill-equipped for modern war, waited for the enemy to strike at the vaunted Maginot Line. They had not long to wait.

On May 10, 1940, the Nazis, who had already invaded and subdued Denmark and Norway, attacked Holland and Belgium.

The march of events became a stampede. Holland, after heroic resistance, succumbed on May 15; gallant little Belgium fell 13 days later; and on June 22 France, too, was stricken down.

Britain had become the last bastion of freedom in Europe, and her people, at last fully aware of the terrible tyranny that threatened not only Europe but all the world, stood at bay and breathed defiance. They also rolled up their sleeves.

The Battle of Britain began on August 8, and, as we recall with heartfelt gratitude to Those Few, it ended in the rout of the enemy.

All eyes were then turned towards the skies, but an even grimmer battle was being waged on the seas, where the U-boats, like pack wolves, were unceasingly attacking our ships, trying to starve us into surrender.

The opening of 1941 found our island stronghold still free while our troops, with their brothers-in-arms from the Dominions, were waging successful campaigns against the Italians in Africa.

On June 22 the Nazis, having

conquered most of Western Europe, turned on Russia, and thus signed their own death warrant. English hearts again were uplifted, and in the dark days towards the end of 1941 they found themselves overjoyed with the advent of yet another mighty ally. On December 8 this country and the United States declared war on Japan after her treacherous acts in the Pacific. Within a day or so the great American nation, whose friendship and very practical help had long buoyed us up, had also joined us in the war against Germany.

The dawn of 1942 saw no abatement of the grim struggle, but by the end of the year the enemy had been overwhelmingly defeated in Africa, and was suffering severe losses in Russia. The tide had turned!

Germany's Decline

In February, 1943, huge German forces had finally broken on the rock of Stalingrad, to retreat thereafter, and in May the Axis troops in Tunisia surrendered. The Western Allies pursued their conquering course through Sicily and then in Italy, and on September 8 Italy surrendered. Germany, now universally loathed, had her back to the wall.

The opening months of 1944 found the Russians still triumphantly surging forward everywhere, and the Allies slowly but surely driving the Germans northward in Italy.

On June 4, 1944, Allied soldiers entered Rome, the first European capital to be liberated. And two days later came D Day—the Day of Destiny. The Allied landings in France marked the obvious beginning of the end of Nazism.

One by one Germany's unwilling allies deserted her. France was freed, and Belgium and Greece and Poland, with most of Yugoslavia and Holland.

The breathless events of these last few weeks need no recapitulation—we are still in the whirl of them, even as we pause in thanksgiving at the end of the long, dark road to victory in Europe.



THIS ENGLAND The church of Syresham in Northamptonshire with its quaint shingled spire

A Victory Empire Day

Of all the Empire Days which, since the beginning of this century, have been celebrated by schoolchildren throughout the British Commonwealth, none has had a deeper significance than that of this momentous year.

For May 24, 1945, comes not long after our great Commonwealth of Nations, with our Allies, has achieved complete victory over the most cruel and relentless foe that ever threatened to wipe out for ever British ideals and ways of life.

May 24 is observed as Empire Day every year because it was the birthday of Queen Victoria. The idea that this day should be a school holiday, during which the Empire's future citizens should turn their thoughts towards the great confederation of peoples to which they belong, began in the Dominions, and it was not thoroughly established in the Homeland until 1904. The man who had most to do with popularising the idea in Britain was that noble patriot and philanthropist, the late Earl of Meath. At an important meeting over which he presided on May 24, 1904, he outlined the aims and ideals of the Empire Day movement.

He spoke of the magnificence and power of the Empire, of its absolutely unique character, and of the unrivalled freedom and liberty of person which its populations enjoyed; but he also warned the British people that other empires had disappeared, and he dealt with the causes of their decay—lack of public spirit and the growth of a spirit of selfishness making men and women careless of the rights and wants of others. Ignorance about the Empire and lack of interest in it on the part of its citizens were, he pointed out, grave dangers to be guarded against. Turning to

the unique British Commonwealth, the Earl of Meath said: "If in youth knowledge were obtained and interest aroused in regard to the Empire, there is little fear that prejudice or the wiles of ill-disposed men would be able to prevent the growth of that friendly feeling between all sections of the British Empire which must be the ardent desire of all true patriots and of those animated by the Christian spirit of peace and good will towards men."

How that spirit of brotherhood has grown has been wonderfully demonstrated in this war, when, in spite of disasters and mistakes, the peoples of our Commonwealth never lost faith in each other or in their ideal.

Empire Day is a Youth Day, and in a message to British Youth the Earl of Gowrie, V.C., President of the Empire Day Movement, writes:

"You, the Youth of the Empire, have indeed shown that you have courage. What you have done in these war years shows that you can shoulder responsibility. We must continue to stand firmly together in the task of making the brave new world which we hope will rise out of the ruins of the war."

May 24 will be celebrated with boundless enthusiasm this year. In London there is to be an inspiring Festival of Empire at the Albert Hall, which the King and Queen will attend, and at every British school throughout the world the Flag, symbol of our unity and our pride, will be saluted.

THE NAMING OF WARS

Wars, like battles, have their names. To give a title by which history is to record a single battle is not difficult. Henry the Fifth, after his immortal victory, is made by Shakespeare to ask Montjoy, the herald from the defeated French army, "What is this castle called that stands hard by?" to which the herald answers, "They call it Agincourt." The comment of the victorious king is:

*Then call we this the field of Agincourt,
Fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus.*

And the name of Agincourt has rung like magic in English ears ever since.

The naming of a war, protracted over years, is a less simple matter, with far less general agreement as to the appropriateness of the term chosen. The dreadful strife that extended from 1914 to 1918 was generally described as The Great War. But, as since 1939 the world has been embroiled in a war still greater and more frightful, many writers have adopted the terms First and Second World Wars. Others, alternatively have linked the two in one title, The Thirty Years' War, ignoring the fact that, whatever the deadly secret preparations of Germany and Japan, we did have some measure of peace for twenty of those 30 years.

The Thirty Years' War

This title will not do. With closer attention to the facts the name already figures twice in history. The real Thirty Years' War, lasting from 1618 until 1648, was one of the wars of religion, set on foot by King Ferdinand the Second with a view to the extermination of Protestantism in Germany. But other historians apply the same title to the dreadful conflict waged in England between the rival houses of York and Lancaster, each claiming the throne. Lasting 30 years from 1455, it embraced 15 major battles, the first at St Albans, the last at Bosworth, which brought the great Tudor dynasty to possession of the Crown. That is also called the Thirty Years' War, but to all but a few this struggle remains the Wars of the Roses.

This followed on a conflict still more fearful, the Hundred Years' War, fought between France and England, which, beginning with the claim of Edward the Third to the crown of France, did actually bring an English king to the French throne, but ended, with the rise and triumph of Joan of Arc, in our complete overthrow and expulsion from all France but Calais. The individual battles during that long conflict give many names to history, but no one disputes the melancholy right of the whole long strife to the title of the Hundred Years' War.

For the Housewife

LONDONERS are now being shown the latest wartime food recipes by demonstration vans which were previously used as mobile recruiting stations by the Ministry of Aircraft Production. A small fleet of these kitchens on wheels are to tour the country to keep the public abreast of the latest details of foodstuffs in best supply.

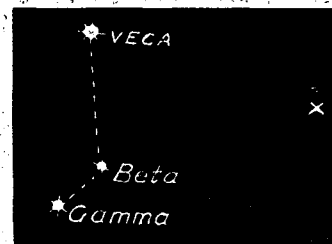
The Brightest Star in the Twilight Sky

THE planet Mars may now be seen in the early morning sky and a very good opportunity for identifying him will occur during the next few weeks owing to the apparent proximity of Venus, writes the C.N. Astronomer.

At present Mars is a very long way from us, though he appears as a first-magnitude star; but the early-morning twilight renders him not easily discernible, unless the observer knows just where to look.

The presence of the brilliant Venus will make the finding of Mars a very easy matter, for she will be readily recognised in the east and later in the south-east; Mars will be a little way to the right of Venus and at a higher altitude. At present a distance equal to about twelve times the

likely to be the first star to be glimpsed in the lingering twilight of the coming June evenings. There is no mistaking Vega, owing to its position relative to the other two bright stars of the constellation of Lyra, the Lyre; these are Beta and Gamma, which may soon be discerned after Vega is found. Vega is a sun so brilliant and hot that we could not endure it were it in the place of our own Sun; for Vega would then appear nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ times greater in diameter, and owing to its much greater surface temperature, averaging 11,200 degrees Centigrade (nearly twice that of our Sun), the brilliancy of Vega is so great that it altogether radiates about 53 times more light and heat. Just imagine our little Earth having to endure that amount more if Vega were but 93,000,000 miles away! But Vega is about 1,707,850 times farther away, its light taking 27 years to reach us compared with light's 8½ minutes' journey from our Sun.



Vega, and the other bright stars of Lyra. The X shows the point to which the Solar System is speeding

apparent width of the Moon separates the two planets, but during the next two weeks this will diminish to about eight times the Moon's width.

The crescent Moon will appear near these planets on the mornings of June 6 and 7, being a little way to the right of Mars on June 6 and to the left of Venus on June 7. With the exception of Venus, no other "star" appears as bright as Mars in that region of the sky, so Mars cannot be mistaken.

Mars is at present about 172,000,000 miles away; he is slowly getting closer and therefore brighter, so that by the end of the year Mars will be a brilliant object in the evening sky. Venus is at present about 51,000,000 miles away and is therefore actually much nearer to us than to Mars, but she is receding.

Vega, the brightest star in the northern half of the Heavens, may now be seen high in the eastern sky from about an hour after sunset. It is therefore

The distance between our Sun and Vega is diminishing by about 550 miles a minute, so Vega will in the course of ages appear still more brilliant and, though not approaching us directly but tangentially, it may yet rival Sirius in apparent brilliance. Actually it is our Sun, and his solar system of worlds that is speeding through space toward a point which appears not far to the south-west of Vega, as shown on the accompanying star-map; as our Sun is travelling at the rate of 732 miles a minute it is, in a way, racing after Vega.

Vega is, in other ways for us, one of the most famous stars in the Heavens, because between 13,000 and 14,000 years ago Vega was the Pole Star to which the Earth's Axis at that time pointed. Such navigators as existed then would have valued and honoured such a Pole Star, and there is evidence that ancient Egyptian Temples were oriented to it. However, 11,000 years hence the Pole Star will again be this lovely and still more brilliant Vega. G.F.M.

BRITAIN'S FUTURE WOODLANDS

THE Government have decided on ambitious plans for planting new forests in Britain. They have resolved that in the next fifty years three million acres of new woodlands shall be planted.

Speaking of this in the House of Commons recently, Mr Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, pointed out that much of our existing forests had been cut down to provide timber for the last war and this. During the last war 450,000 acres were felled, and in the years after it felling still went on.

Between the wars 620,000 acres were planted with new trees, but during this war, said Mr Hudson, more trees were felled than in the last, so that the country is

left today with not more than one million acres of woodland in most of which the trees are young, or of second-rate wood, or the woods themselves are sparsely planted.

Under the Government's scheme land is to be acquired for turning into forest, and the responsibility for purchasing the land will be transferred from the Forestry Commission to the Minister of Agriculture, in the case of land acquired in England, and to the Secretary for Scotland for Scottish lands. Half the land bought for the new forests will be in Scotland.

Timber is one of the nation's important assets, and these are wise plans for the conservation of our supplies of it.

BEDTIME CORNER

A Farmer and His Corn

A FARMER who year after year had a fine crop of barley was not content, but complained to the gods that the beards of the corn—those sharp points that protect the grain—sometimes cut and pricked the fingers of the reapers.

The gods, therefore, let the next crop grow without beards, and as the grain was no longer protected, the birds came in hundreds as soon as it was ripe, and ate it all up.

"Fool that I was!" said the farmer in despair, "now I have lost a fine crop because I made a fuss about a few finger-pricks!"

A complaint can be made once too often.

MIDNIGHT REVELS

AT night the elves and fairies
Come out to dance and sing,
And sit upon the toadstools
To hear the bluebells ring.

A PRAYER

CLOSE beside me stay Thou
near,
And, as year succeedeth year,
Keep me ever in Thy fear,
I beseech Thee, gracious Lord.

Make me gentle as a dove,
Fix my gaze on things above
Keep me ever in Thy love,
I beseech Thee, gracious Lord.

Bid my dark foreboding cease,
From dull care my soul release.

Keep me ever in Thy peace,
I beseech Thee, gracious Lord.
David Effaye

SPENDING FAIRY POCKET-MONEY



WARTIME LIFE IN USA

By the C N Correspondent in America

ON Fifth Avenue, New York, it is still possible to buy candy without coupons, and for a customer to be served in a restaurant with two fried eggs for breakfast.

In spite of their fourth year of war the United States knows very few of the restrictions of life which Britishers have grown accustomed to. The immense abundance of this great land has been equal to all the demands made on it. It has poured colossal quantities of food across the Atlantic for Britain and for suffering Europe, but still there is more than enough for every American citizen.

It is true that if you want a particular size of shoe you may find it hard to get it, and you will need a coupon for it. Your favourite type of shirt may be missing from the shops, and the cute little outfit you see advertised for children may not be in the stores when you go to buy.

What most Americans miss probably more than anything is unlimited gasoline. Each motorist is allowed two gallons of petrol a week, and on this he ought to be able to travel thirty miles. Tyres are also rationed, but in spite of all this there are long lines of cars on American highways.

Coal and oil for heating houses are also rationed, and this has meant that many homes have been reduced to 68 degrees Fahrenheit—a very cool experience for many Americans who like to keep their homes to 75 degrees. If you do a lot of travel there are some further restrictions which Americans good-humouredly like to grumble about. You must reserve your seat for long-distance travel some

weeks ahead. Trains are very crowded, and as many journeys in America take sixty or seventy hours, they can be very tiring.

Food is not always easy to get on the train. You have to stand in line and wait an hour to be served. Troops travelling are nearly always served first, and on one journey the writer got his breakfast at lunch-time, because 150 Mexicans going to work on the sugar-beet fields of Wyoming had, as war workers, to be served first.

America, like Britain, is experiencing a tremendous shortage of houses, in spite of the fact that millions of people are away from their normal homes. In many cities it is impossible to get a room in an hotel, and almost impossible to lease an apartment.

In taxes it is estimated that when federal, state, and city taxes are put together, the American is taxed almost at as high a standard as the average Briton. A married man with one child and an income of 2000 dollars (about £500) pays in tax to the Federal Government just over £50. If his income is £1000, his tax is just over £100. In addition to this, he has the state and city taxes and many sales taxes which he pays when he shops.

But with all these restrictions the American knows that he feels the burden of war only very lightly compared with his British friends, and many wish they could do more to lighten the burdens of their Allies.

The Silent King

LISTENERS to the broadcast of Moscow's mighty salute of guns celebrating the end of the war against Germany will have heard also the deep notes of a bell ringing out over the Soviet capital.

In former days, Moscow's myriad bells pealed her wordless anthems of jubilation. 'We do not know what has happened to the Russian capital's church bells. Many may have been melted down for ordnance. One bell they could not have rung.

It was called, in our language, the King of Bells, and in point of size it really was the monarch of its order. Cast 210 years ago, it was 19 feet high, 66 feet in widest circumference, and weighed 200 tons, so that it was the biggest bell in the world. Before it could be raised to ring in Moscow's Ivan Veliky tower, the workshop of the bellfounder was destroyed by fire, which cracked the unringing giant and split out of it a fragment weighing ten tons.

For a century the bell lay a ruin in the earth. Then it was at last excavated and placed at the base of the tower in whose belfry it was to have swung. No one ever heard the note that it was designed to thunder. Instead the bell was raised on a pedestal. The king of bells, mute-born, served for generations as a chapel, with space for 16 men to stand shoulder to shoulder.

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

WHEN two Englishmen meet, their first talk is about the weather, wrote Dr Johnson. But of scientific forecasts of the weather for tomorrow and the day after, Britons have known nothing for five and a half years.

Now the old forecasts are back again, with news of sun and warmth, or warnings of depressions approaching from Iceland.

So the subject so dear to the hearts of Englishmen can once again be discussed in prospect.

Peter Puck has celebrated the occasion in these lines:

Now, when I plan to move around,
Forewarned, I ought to be in
clover.

I could not find much interest in
The weather in the Straits of
Dover.

A Helpful Service

It is hoped that the Government Advice Service for men and women returning from war duties will be in operation throughout the country by June 1. This has been announced by Mr McCorquodale, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, who hopes that existing voluntary agencies, such as the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association, the Help Society, and the British Legion, will co-operate with the official resettlement advice offices of the Ministry.

Through these organisations, working together, our returning Service men and women, and those released from civilian war work, will be able to get immediate advice and help.

The sorting-out process will be complicated and difficult. But the Government have foreseen all this, and their scheme should meet every need.

HE LED US TO VICTORY

THE festival of thanksgiving is ending. The ecstasy of gratitude for triumphal deliverance merges in the glad acceptance of life and safety assured. As we furl the banners that will fly again for the overthrow of murderous Japan, let us continue to hold in grateful memory that outstanding personality, Mr Winston Churchill, who has brought us from the abyss of peril to share with our Allies a victory dazzling beyond compare.

May we not for once anticipate the verdict of the historians and pronounce immediate judgment on the abounding wonder of it all? Who but an inspired leader of intellectual, moral, and martial genius could have converted into triumphant success elements compact of danger and disaster?

The Man at the Helm

Alone of our statesmen he had penetrated and exposed the fell secrets of German purpose and preparation. Not a word of his solemn warnings had failed of terrible realisation. He was great enough of spirit, in the days of shattering crisis, never to permit himself a complacent, "I told you so!" He accepted the burden of the Premiership when our national fortunes were imperilled as never before. As a man predestined to lead this country in her task of safeguarding Freedom for all the world, Winston Churchill took the helm of our stricken Ship of State with unruffled courage, and kept it steady in every tempest, her course unchanged amid the shoals and currents of swaying destiny.

Having held every high office of State in preceding years, Mr Churchill by the beginning of this war had declined to the status of a private member. When the King called him to the Premiership he had at once to grapple with appalling problems. Poland had fallen; Denmark and Norway were invaded. On the very day that he assumed office Holland and Luxembourg and Belgium were penetrated, to be forced into surrender within a fortnight. In his first speech as Prime Minister he resolutely pointed out the hard road ahead: "I have nothing to offer, but blood and toil and tears and sweat. . . . We have before us many, many long months of struggle and suffering. . . . You ask what is our aim. It is Victory, victory at all costs. . . . for without victory there is no survival. I take up my task with buoyancy and hope." Our forces were sundered from the French, and the Germans gained all the Channel ports but Dunkirk, from which, with the loss of all their armament, a miracle of courage and seamanship rescued 335,000, chiefly British soldiers.

When Britain Stood Alone

Mr Churchill was undaunted then, as he was when, not long afterwards, France fell, leaving the British Empire doomed to an agonising year of unflinching single-handed endeavour against the mightiest military Power in the world. "We shall never surrender," he declared. In this extremity of danger the Premier proved that not for nothing is he a descendant of the immortal Duke of Marlborough. His fiery spirit kindled in the sons and daughters of the Motherland and Empire a valour and resolve matching his own. It was his unwavering constancy and that of those he inspired that won us first the admiration, then the co-

operation of America; and it was his penetrating vision that enabled him to demonstrate how our efforts and those of Russia might operate in harmony at a distance for the ultimate triumph of all.

Mr Churchill was not then a young man, but he exhibited the energy of a Hercules. Again and again he submitted himself not only to the fatigues, but the deadly hazards of travel by sea and air: repeatedly to America, to Africa, Teheran, Russia, Greece, and elsewhere. And momentous were the decisions for which he was responsible.

Toiling privately longer hours than the most ardent munition worker, he discharged with incomparable distinction his duties to that assembly of which he is proud to own himself the humble servant, the House of Commons. Recognised as the embodiment of our aims, our hopes and ideals, Mr Churchill has stood to the world for Britain and all that glorious name implies.

The myriad-voiced crowd in Whitehall on V E Day spoke for us all when, acknowledging his blessing, it cried with heart-stirring fervour, "And God bless you, too!"



"Won't there be searchlights?"...

She has never known a world without searchlights. Growing up in the greatest war of all time, she does not even know what peace was like.

You are anxious to ensure that once this war is over, she makes up for the loss of so much childhood joy. You will look to her health first and make sure that 'Milk of Magnesia' is your standby — never absent from the medicine cabinet.

In the happier days ahead, as now, 'Milk of Magnesia' will keep her fit and free from stomach troubles.

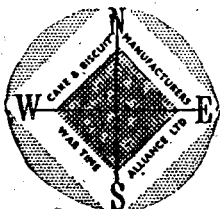
'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

You like Biscuits



It isn't always the nicest and most attractive things that are good for us. But biscuits certainly are! Packed full of energy-creating and stamina-sustaining ingredients, they fill an urgent war-time need as nothing else can. Remember that when you are spending your points. Just as you like biscuits



they like you!

Jacko Solves a Problem



GRANDFATHER JACKO had been staying with the family, and when the time came for him to go, Jacko's mother told him to help Grandad carry his trunk to the station. It proved too heavy for them. Then Jacko had a brainwave. He fixed his two hoops round the trunk and merrily bowled it down the hill. "Why not ride on it, Jacko?" cheekily chirped the chick on the pavement.

SHORT MEMORY

WAILED a scholar with brows firmly knit,
"All I've learned from my head does a fit."
The master said, "You Would be wise to try glue,
Then some learning might stick to your wit."

The Siamese Cat

THE royal Siamese cat is a distinct breed, fawn in colour, with face, ears, limbs, and tail a dark brown, and with blue eyes. Its limbs are short compared with those of other cats, and its hind quarters are high.

The most remarkable thing about it is that the kittens are born quite white.

After about a week, faint markings begin to appear, but even at six months old, a lot of white still shows.

SIMPLE

A STATIONER said, "I am going to sell these paper clips at a penny a dozen cheaper, so in future one more must be given for a penny."

What was the price of a dozen?
Answer next week



Just like a Sweet!

Children need an occasional laxative to give them. They love the taste and you can be sure of effective results without unpleasant griping or after-effects. Lixen is the pure, safe laxative prepared from senna pods by a special process which removes harshness.

LIXEN LOZENGES, fruit flavoured, in bottles, 1/8. Purchase Tax included.
LIXEN ELIXIR, in bottles, 2/3, 3/11. Purchase Tax included.

LIXEN
THE GOOD-NATURED
Laxative

Made in England by ALLEN & HANBURY LTD.

Letter Juggling

CAN you make a sentence from these letters:
E C N N A T E E S
Answer next week

OLDER STILL

"Do you know my ancestors came over with William the Conqueror?" said an unpopular squire who did not consider his country tenants paid him sufficient respect.

"And they found mine here when they arrived," replied a sturdy cottager with a smile.

Floating Pins and Needles

IF you challenge anyone to float a needle or a pin on water they will probably soon give up the job as hopeless. But when you know how it is quite easy. All you have to do is to float a piece of tissue paper, which should be a little longer than the pin or needle, on the surface of the water.

Then place the pin on the paper, which after a little while will sink to the bottom because it is soaked. The pin will then float without any difficulty. This is because the smooth surface of the pin is not easily wetted, so that on either side the water takes on a convex shape. Thus a sufficient volume of water is displaced to allow the pin to float.

If you want to hide how you get the pin to float remove the paper before showing the trick.

She just coughed and coughed until—



a dose of 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup checked the rasping spasms and started her on the road to rapid recovery. 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup brings ease and comfort—it breaks up stubborn phlegm and clears the bronchial passages. It is delicious to take. Only half a teaspoonful will check a cough immediately. 1/9 including Purchase Tax. Good for grown-ups too! Always ask for

'Pineate'
HONEY
COUGH-SYRUP

The BRAN TUB

SKY-HIGH

AN elf sat on the cork of a bottle of "pop,"
Which a picnicking party had happened to drop.
All at once he shot skywards, and gave a great shout:
"Humans oughtn't to leave such explosives about!"

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Living Fly-Traps. Beneath the shady hedge Wild Arum was growing. Don bent down to examine the half-curved leaf, with its slender brown spire rising from the centre, not unlike a miniature Bulrush.

"What a beastly smell it has," he complained to Farmer Gray. "There is a reason for it," answered the farmer. "It attracts a certain species of fly; the flowers of the Arum are concealed in the swelling at the base of the spathe, as it is called."

"The flies are able to crawl inside, but owing to an arrangement of stiff hairs cannot escape until the spathe begins to wither. Visiting several plants, the flies thus distribute the pollen."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Saturn is in the west and Jupiter is in the south. In the morning Mars and Venus are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 10 p.m. DBST on



Saturday, May 26.

Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, May 23, to Tuesday, May 29.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Concert before an audience of children at the Houldsworth Hall, Manchester, by the BBC Northern Orchestra, conducted by Charles Groves, with Martin Milner (violin). 5.55 Prayers.

THURSDAY, 5.20 Top of the Class—Test pieces by Young Prizewinners in recent Edinburgh and Glasgow musical festivals, and an Indian Folk Tale, The Miller and the Shoes, by Kathleen Fleming, read by Moultrie R. Kelsall.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Beau Brocade, by Baroness Orczy, adapted by Joan Littlewood. Part 4—At the Royal George. Produced by Nan Macdonald.

SATURDAY, 5.20 Scenes from Shakespeare—presented by a Young People's Club from Aberdare.

SUNDAY, 5.20 The Little Stuarts, a series of plays about the children of Charles I, written by Morna Stuart and produced by Josephine Plummer. No 3—Elizabeth.

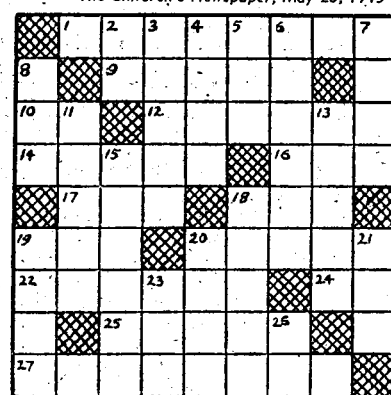
MONDAY, 5.20 Young Artists, from the North of England, including The Chesterfield Junior Orchestra. 5.45 The Zoo Man.

TUESDAY, 5.30 Story, followed by Songs by Percy Young, sung by Violet Carson; and Pencil and Paper, more puzzles, questions, and catches by P. Caton Baddeley.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 To release from bondage. 9 An Indian of rank. 10 Officer Commanding. 12 In the direction of. 14 Popular breakfast food. 16 To speak. 17 Shallow cooking vessel. 18 To obtain. 19 Provides eggs. 20 For communication and entertainment. 22 A severe trial. 24 A preposition. 25 These go with shoes. 27 A pretext.

Reading Down. 2 Surrounded by. 3 Field-marshal's badge. 4 Dark. 5 A line. 6 Reduced in rank. 7 A whirlpool. 8 A short-legged pony. 11 A prank. 13 Mathematical proportion. 15 Wax light. 18 An ancient Greek physician. 19 A wooden or metal band. 20 A running contest. 21 Frequently. 23 To corrode. 26 South Carolina. Answer next week
Asterisks indicate abbreviations



What the Trees Give Us

THE Cork Oak of the Mediterranean, Spain and Portugal, gives us corks, floats for nets, lifebelts, artificial limbs, inner soles for shoes, case linings, hat linings, and the cork waste is used in the making of linoleum.

The acorns are edible and taste something like chestnuts.

Black paint is obtained from cork parings.

A LIVELY LESSON

"WHAT is all this fuss about?" inquired the schoolmaster.

"Well, sir, Tom wanted to know, if you take five from eight, how many remain, so I took five of his sweets to show him, and now he wants them back."

"Of course he does. Why won't you give them to him?"

"Because if I do he will forget how many were left."

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